Observe, we do not therefore advocate the suppression of the "smoke consumption" movement: far from it. What we merely desire to point out is the absolute necessity of at same time considering and adopting some special and efficient means of finally getting rid of so dangerous a commodity as the carbonic acid gas thus to be manufactured by wholesale,—some direct and proper issue of it into the common sewers, *after being cooled*; or at all events some proper drainage or disposal of it away altogether from the vicinity of human abodes and human lungs.

The more immediate occasion of our present remarks, however, is the allegation of another mischief which it is now regarded as likely to produce. Of the probability or improbability of this new mischief, we shall not at present express any opinion; but at all events there are both reflection and ingenuity in the suggestion of it, and it reminds us strongly of some speculations by a correspondent of our own on electricity, if, indeed, it be not based on these and on our own general warnings as to the risk of an unlimited production of carbonic acid gas in towns.

C. I. S. a correspondent of the *Sheffield and Rotherham Independent*, in reference to some previous discussion on the subject of Smoke Consumption, states the following propositions:—

"1. The earth and all projections from its surface are endowed with negative electricity; the atmosphere, with all its contents (excepting perhaps a few clouds), with positive electricity. The intensities of these vary during the day and night; the greatest intensity occurring at this time of the year at about 8 a.m. and 11 p.m.; the least about 4 a.m. and 4 p.m. (Schubler, of Stuttgard.)

2. During the combustion of coal, coke, charcoal, and other substances used as fuel, the latter becomes negatively electrified; the emanations from it positively electrified. (Pouillet.)

3. The ascending current of air caused by the heat of our towns has a rapidity which is the mean of two forces: A. That of the pressure of the column of air of equal height and area outside the town, minus the pressure of the column within the town. B. That of the attraction of the town (negatively electrified), for the column of ascending air above the town (positively electrified). Make A a minimum, and the ascending current is arrested; and the converse: make B a minimum, and the ascending current is unimpeded; and the converse.

4. Watery vapours absorb largely malarious poisons (Copland, Lancisi, Brocchi, Annesley, M'Culloch). These vapours are carried with their poisonous contents into towns from the country by the current of air always passing in that direction. When force A prevails, these pass through and above the town, and become disseminated in the upper regions of the atmosphere. When B prevails they are retained above the town from a stagnant condition of the air; and by the authority of Rush, Chisholm, Bancroft, Clark, Copland, Annesley, and other eminent writers on malarious diseases, such a condition is highly conducive to the propagation of these diseases.

5. In accordance with the law of opposite electric forces, "That the mutual attraction of two oppositely electrified bodies is directly proportional to the quality of electricity on the one, multiplied by that on the other; and inversely proportional to the squares of distance between them," the force B is increased in towns; and by sec. 2, increased in proportion to the combustion in them; and as smoke prevention is now carried out by an increased combustion of carbon, it will be directly inferred that the deleterious result described in sec. 4 is produced.

6. I do not speak in favour of smoke, but I wish it to be destroyed without any injurious result; and what I state is merely the result of private inquiry into its probable operation on health."

AWARD OF GREAT EXHIBITION MEDALS.—There appears to be some irregularity in regard to the distribution of reports with medals. We have complaints from local commissioners that copies of the jurors' reports were given to others along with their medals, but not to them; and also from some of those who received medals for their designs for the building to a similar effect. There is some mistake as to this, and we have no doubt, if rightly represented to the committee, the error will be rectified, or the discrepancy explained.

Miscellanea.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—For the "Prima Donna," a neatly-constructed comedietta, two very excellent scenes have been painted,—both interiors,—a wooden room is the country, with the construction shown, the whole having a very nice tone, and a drawing-room scene, quite perfect of its class. The latter is Italian in style, with fire-place, looking-glasses, and elaborate furniture. The piece is made noticeable by the acting of a *debutante*, Miss Heath, who promises to be a great acquisition to Mr. Kean's good working company. Mr. Walter Lacy and Miss Robertson aid in producing the success which attends it. Mr. Lambert, late of the Lyceum, who, for his courtesy, deserves the notice of the press, has been made treasurer here.

SEA BATHING IN LONDON.—In the early development of the railway system, it will be remembered, more than one proposal was made for bringing sea water from the coast by pipes. We have now before us a prospectus of the London Sea Water Company, formed for carrying out a somewhat similar enterprise. It is proposed to construct a sea wall, engine-house, reservoir, and offices at Middlewick, on the eastern coast of Essex, and to lay down a cast-iron main conduit thence through Southminster, Althorn, Latchington, Runwell, Wickford, East Horndon Hall, Upminster, Hornchurch, Langtons, Havering Well, Beacon Tree Heath, Great Ilford, Stratford, Old Ford-road, Ford-lane, Hackney Wick, and Homerton, to Clapton, terminating in a reservoir formerly used by the East London Water-Works Company, extending over an area of two acres, in Powell's-field. It is intended, in the first instance, to construct two bathing establishments—one in the neighbourhood of Finsbury-square for the east, and the other near Cavendish-square for the western districts of London; and, it is believed that the erection of the establishments at Middlewick and London, laying the mains, preliminary, legal, and every other outlay, will not exceed 90,000*l*. The capital is, therefore, fixed at 100,000*l*. in 10,000 shares of 10*l*. each, and a profitable return for the money invested is calculated on, though we will not guarantee it.

STRIKES.—The large body of masons in the employ of the contractors for the enlargement and repairs of the Bute Docks, at Cardiff (Messrs. Hemingway and Pearson), have struck work for an advance of wages. As it is necessary that the works should be pushed on with as little delay as possible, it is apprehended that the workmen have taken advantage of this state of things, and struck at a time when it would be most inconvenient and injurious to have a stoppage in the progress of the works, which are very extensive. Large quarries, for the purpose of supplying the requisite amount of stone, have been established in the neighbourhood.——A great number of the nailers at Rowley Regis, those who make a description of nails at present in great demand, are gone into work, after having been out on strike for about ten weeks, the masters having conceded, wholly or in part, the claims of the men. An agreement, it is said, is come to amongst the men in work to allow those out on strike a portion of their wages (10 per cent.) so long as they remain out of work from non-compliance of their masters with their demands.

NORWICH SCHOOL OF DESIGN.—On Monday in last week, the students of this school assembled to witness a distribution of medals from the department of practical art, and rewards by the master for drawings. Sir J. P. Boileau, bart. presided, and addressed the students on the establishment of the department of practical art at Marlborough House. From that department two medals had been sent to students in this school, who had excelled in drawing. Miss Charlotte Cartwright and Zephaniah King received the medals, which were of bronze. Both recipients had previously gained prizes. The master's prizes were then given. The president read the report to the department of practical art respecting the progress of the schools.

EXTENSION OF THE METROPOLIS TO THE NORTH-WEST.—The metropolis is rapidly increasing in extent in a north-west direction. Primrose-hill is nearly encircled by houses, and St. John's Wood appears as if it would soon be joined to the West End. In a few years, it is believed, the village of Willesden will be included within the metropolis. The low fares by the omnibuses which run from the City, by Holborn and Oxford-street, to Kilburn, and the establishment of a station on the London and North-Western Railway at this village, with the facility of reaching it now by railway from the City, has caused a great demand for residences, to meet which the freeholders of the Kilburn Park estate have devoted fifty acres of land for building purposes, and will, it is said, immediately commence making the necessary roads and sewers.

A JACK OF ALL TRADES.—The necessity, in a new country like America, of tinkering away for one's self at all sorts of trades, except in towns and other settled districts, has certainly done much towards the raising of so universal a genius as the following, described in the *New York Tribune*:—In course of talk with a partial acquaintance the other day, I casually asked him his occupation. He replied that he did not know what it was. He was brought up a farmer till nineteen, and then kept district school days, and writing school nights three years. From that he taught a select school two terms, grammar school one, and speaking one. He then hired out at 10 dollars a month and board, to work in a carriage-shop, and continued till they raised his wages to 20 dollars, at which time he was a member of the Eastern Christian Conference, and went to preaching. In 1848 was elected delegate to a State Convention at Utica. Has just completed a carriage worth 125 dollars, having done the woodwork, ironing, and painting himself. Preaches regular to a church once a week, and lectures on temperance, slavery, and other subjects other Sabbaths. "And now, sir," said he, "as I work at any or all of these as they come in my way, you can tell as well as I what my occupation is, or whether I really have any. I have had wages and passed muster at all of them, and on 2nd of November last was just thirty years old."

SMOLLET'S MONUMENT.—Near the right of the river Leven, a monument was erected by a cousin of Smollet's to his memory. A village has since grown up around this monument as a centre; but notwithstanding this implied honour to the man, his monument, according to the *Scotsman*, is fast going to wreck. The tablet attached to the column became loosened and has ultimately disappeared altogether. It is said that private right, of persons unwilling either to act or to allow others to do so, interferes with its repair, and that the children at a school in the quadrangle of houses surrounding it are allowed to destroy it piecemeal. This is a lamentable state of things. Surely the public odium might be brought to bear on those dogs in the manger who will neither do what is requisite themselves nor allow it to be done by others. A sum of 20*l*. to 30*l*. it is said would do all that is necessary for its repair and its future safety.

REMAINS OF ROMAN LONDON.—We are glad to hear that the stones which were removed, as we stated, from the London-wall, near the Tower, to Spitalfields, have been sent to the British Museum. It is to be hoped that these remains of Roman London will not be allowed, as many curious things connected with our national antiquities are, to rest in the cellars.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION.—The first conversazione of this Association will be held at their rooms, Lyon's-Inn Hall, on Friday, 1st October, when we hope there will be a good muster of members and friends.

VENTNOR COMPETITION.—Sixteen designs were submitted in competition for the new Independent Chapel of this place. The committee have selected one by Mr. Raffles Brown. It is Early Decorated in character, and will be built with the local stone, with Bath stone dressings, and is to seat 300 on the ground floor, at a cost of 1,200*l*.

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